

CLAIMS

1. An antibody prepared using a peptide as an antigen, the peptide having consecutive 8 to 30 amino acid residues selected from an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1.
2. An antibody prepared using a peptide as an antigen, the peptide having amino acid residues described in any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 4.
3. An antibody that binds to a peptide having amino acid residues described in any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 4.
4. An antibody that binds to a peptide having 16 amino acid residues described in SEQ ID NO: 2.
5. An assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 for directly assaying human low-molecular-weight CD14 in a specimen without detecting human high-molecular-weight CD14, comprising an antibody that binds to at least one of the human low-molecular-weight CD14 or a fragment thereof.
6. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14

according to claim 5, wherein the antibody that binds to the human low-molecular-weight CD14 or the fragment thereof is the antibody described in any one of claims 1 to 4 or a fragment thereof.

7. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to claim 5, wherein the antibody that binds to the human low-molecular-weight CD14 or the fragment thereof is the antibody described in claim 4 or a fragment thereof.

8. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the human low-molecular-weight CD14 is assayed by a sandwich immunoassay method.

9. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to claim 8, further comprising a second binding substance that binds to the human low-molecular-weight CD14.

10. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to claim 9, wherein the second binding substance is an antibody that binds to the human low-molecular-weight CD14 or a fragment thereof.

11. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to claim 9, wherein the second binding substance is a monoclonal antibody that binds to the human low-molecular-weight CD14 or a fragment thereof.

12. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to claim 9, wherein the second binding substance is: an antibody that binds to any one of amino acid residues at positions 17 to 26 of human high-molecular-weight CD14; a fragment thereof; an antibody that competes with or shows cross-reactivity with an antibody that binds to any one of amino acid residues at positions 17 to 26 of the human high-molecular-weight CD14; or a fragment thereof.

13. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the antibody described in any one of claims 1 to 4 or a fragment thereof is binding to an insoluble carrier.

14. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the antibody described in any one of claims 1 to 4 or a fragment thereof is labeled.

15. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to any one of claims 9 to 14, further comprising:

a second specific binding substance and

a partner of the second specific binding substance, wherein the second specific binding substance and the partner of the second specific binding substance form second specific binding together.

16. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to any one of claims 8 to 15, wherein the sandwich immunoassay method is an assay method utilizing immunochromatography.

17. The assay kit for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to any one of claims 8 to 15, wherein the sandwich immunoassay method is an assay method utilizing a flow-through method.

18. An assay method for human low-molecular-weight CD14, which is for directly assaying human low-molecular-weight CD14 in a specimen using an antibody that binds to at least one of the human low-molecular-weight CD14 in order to detect the human low-molecular-weight CD14 without detecting human high-molecular-weight CD14.

19. The assay method for human low-molecular-weight CD14 according to claim 18, wherein the antibody that binds to the human low-molecular-weight CD14 is the antibody described in any one of claims 1 to 4 or a fragment thereof.

20. A diagnostic method for sepsis, which is for directly assaying human low-molecular-weight CD14.

21. A peptide having amino acid residues as described in any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 4.

22. A method of preparing the antibody as described in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein a peptide having consecutive 8 to 30 amino acid residues selected from the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1 or a peptide having amino acid residues described in any one of SEQ ID NOS: 2 to 4 is used as an antigen.